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With the arrival of Annual Professor J. A. Sanders of Colgate Rochester Divinity School on 2 October our long-term 1961-62 staff is complete. Professor Sanders will spend much of his time in the Storehouse at the Palestine Archaeological Museum and will help conduct our field trip program. Fellow Dorothea Harvey of Milwaukee-Downer College has become a seasoned excavator; she served as our guide at Palmyra and Bosra on the Syria-Turkey trip and will work on preparing the Araq el-Emir glass for publication. Fellow Murray Nicol has also become an experienced excavator; he helped with the preparation for our visits to Hittite sites and will work on the Araq el-Emir coins. He has combed the museums visited on our Syria trip for Hurrian pottery, the subject he has selected for his dissertation at the University of Pennsylvania.

Honorary Lecturer Walter Williams of Iliff School of Theology has been working on the material from the Qasr at Araq el-Emir while the rest of us were away. He is concentrating on the history of Araq el-Emir and the Toblads and hopes to get some work done on a handbook on methods of Old Testament research. Honorary Lecturer David Wisand of Bethany Seminary helped guide us on our trip at Antioch and Seleucia and hopes to work on the problem of the Hellenistic influence in Palestine. Dean Y. Herman Sacon of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, who was also a member of our Syria trip group, plans now to do some research in our library in the area of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Professor William L. Reed arrived at the School on 13 October with Mrs. Reed and Russell after an eight-day delay at the Turkey-Syria border because of the Syrian Revolution. They just returned to the School after a three-week camper-bus tour of Moab where they have been doing some topographical surveying and looking for a prospective sounding site. It is fortunate for the School that the ASOR Executive Assistant to the President will spend several weeks with us.

The annual Syrian Trip was more of a Turkish trip this year. We used some of the key Syrian sites as steppingstones to Hittite heartland. The trip began on 24 October, just four days after the conclusion of our campaign at Araq el-Emir. We packed the car with eight people: AP Sanders, Fellows Harvey and Nicol, Mrs. Nicol, HL Wisand, Dean Sacon, the writer, and the man who contributed most to a safe and happy trip, our driver Aboud Dhib Nasif.

October 24: Heading up the Jordan Valley we noted the familiar sites; Tells ed-Damiyeh, es-Sa'diyeh, el-Mazar, el-Qos, Abu Kharaz, Tabaqat Fahil, el-Husn, and stopped for a brief tour of the Dutch excavations at Tell Deir 'Alla. Then heading east we passed through Irbid (Beth-arbel) and noted Tell er-Ramith (probably Ramoth-gilead) as we turned north on the new Jerash highway to Ramsha. After formalities and picking up a Syrian security officer in Dera'a (Edrei), we proceeded

to Bosra for lunch. After Miss Harvey briefed us on Bosra's history, the local representative of the Syrian Department of Antiquities gave us a tour of the theater and numerous Nabataean, Roman, and Byzantine remains scattered throughout the modern city. We noted especially the sixth century church with its proto-Hagia Sophia plan and a Nabataean temple entrance.

October 25: The entire morning was devoted to a tour of the Damascus Museum, Mrs. Nicol commenting on the Dura Synagogue, Miss Harvey on the Palmyrene remains, the writer on Graeco-Roman artifacts, Mr. Sanders communicating Mr. Williams notes on the Ras Shamra material, and Mr. Nicol on the Mari materials. A special treat was a tour of the Graeco-Roman storage rooms by Bachir Zouhdi, curator of the Hellenistic-Roman section of the museum. Here is certainly one of the best collections of Roman glass extant and an outstanding pottery collection.

October 26: It was a pleasant surprise to reach Palmyra after an easy four-hour drive on paved road all the way. Even more pleasant was a tour of the new museum where the six spacious marble-floored rooms on the main floor are already open to the public, and the six rooms of the upper floor should be opened shortly. Most exciting to the group, on its first tour of Palmyra, were, of course, the Baal Temple, the Roman Street, and the tombs which "though dead, yet speak." Beautiful weather before lunch was paid for with a dust storm and heavy clouds in the afternoon. In the evening Miss Harvey gave an informative presentation of the various aspects of Palmyrene history.

October 27: After retracing our steps to Homs we expected only a view of Hama on our way north, but the army had abandoned the tell, and we were able to see impressive trenches left from Inghol excavations and gather an assortment of Chalcolithic to Arabic sherds. After lunch by the old water wheels, we proceeded to Aleppo, noting Kahn Sheikhoun and Tell As, whose Bronze and Iron Age pottery is neatly displayed in the temporary Aleppo Museum.

October 28: Although the old Aleppo Museum has been completely demolished and construction of the new one has barely begun, we spent a profitable morning at the temporary museum which displays most of the pottery and smaller finds of the old Museum, outstanding collections from Mari, Halaf, and numerous sites in Aleppo's vicinity. We were also able to see the "post-Hittite" and other megalithic remains in the shed behind the old museum. Some of the group spent the afternoon at Qalaat Siman while the others rested or shopped (in the rain). Before supper Mrs. Nicol introduced us to the Antioch mosaics.

October 29: Tours of Alalah by Mr. Nicol, Tell Tainat by the writer, a sketch of Antioch's history by Mr. Vieand, a visit to the Antioch Museum with its fine mosaics and instructive Assyrian collections, together with a complicated border crossing and 313 kilometers provided a full day.

October 30: We completed the Adana-Ankara trip, inspecting the Cilician Gates and enjoying the snow-packed Taurus range and Antolian plateau. Tarsus was slated for the return trip and, unfortunately, missed then also. Fittingly, our rooms in Ankara overlooked the Roman Baths.

October 31: Our morning was spent visiting the Hittite Museum under the guidance of Aykut Cinaroglu, a student of T. Ozguc, graciously provided by Raci Temizer, Director of the Museum. The basic structure of Anatolian history was (re) impressed on our minds as we saw the precious remains of those sites we would subsequently visit--treasures from the Alica tombs, Hittite remains from Boghazköy, "post-Hittite" reliefs from Carchemish, and Phrygian remains from Gordium. We were privileged to see the outstanding display of recent excavation finds under guidance of Museum Assistant Burhan Tezcan, including pottery dated as early as 7000 B.C. (!), and a host of objects that would furnish a complete museum by itself. In the afternoon we took advantage of the beautiful weather and drove to Gordium to see the tumuli (including Midas' tomb) and the excavations of the University of Pennsylvania Museum under R. Young. In the evening we were guests of the new Director of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, Michael Gough. We were happy to learn of the problems and prospects of our counterparts in Turkey. Mr. Gough had graciously made the arrangement for Aykut to accompany us on our tour of Hittite sites.

November 1: At Alaca Hüyük we inspected the Turkish excavations noted for the Alaca tombs. The writer was especially impressed with the close affinities of the Hittite Old Kingdom remains with those of Hyksos Palestine: series of cobbled floors, gateways with two pairs of orthostate, the glacis, and especially the burnished MB pottery which, in some cases, seems identical with that common in Palestine. The afternoon was spent gaining impressions of the grandeur of Boghazköy and Yazalickaya. The grandeur of its gateways, temples citadel, and shrines are unforgettable apart from the treasures which they continue to yield.

November 2: We travelled from Corum to Kayseri, stopping at Alisar Hüyük, site of the Oriental Institute excavations. We remember this site more for the collections of Chalcolithic burnished, Cappadocian, and Phrygian pottery than for its meager architectural remains. We also had an unscheduled stop when our road became a mudbog in a cloudburst.

November 3: We devoted only an hour to the museum at Kayseri, so after a fairly free morning, most of us spent the afternoon at the vast tell and karum of Kültepe. Here Aykut had worked during the summer and could give us a graphic description of the remains and the exciting finds that had come from them. A large area of the karum (Level II) presented itself to us just as it had been left at the end of the second millenium B.C.--streets, house-shops, storage rooms, ovens for baking tablets, jar and coffin burials. This was just one of the thrills of that afternoon.

November 4: On our way from Kayseri to Adana we learned that even "late" history and remains could be exciting as we toured the Cappadocian churches, Mrs. Nicol providing us with some of their background.

November 5: After a brief stop at Missis (Mopsuestia) we went through Antioch to Seleucia, which we examined under Mr. Wieand's guidance. After lunch in Antioch and a three-hour border delay entering Syria, we reached Lattakia.

November 6: Under Mr. Sander's guidance we studied the ruins of Ras Shamra--fortifications, place, tombs, libraries, and temples. The extent of the 1961 excavation of Schaeffer was as impressive as the list of discoveries reported to us by the local guide. Dropping Mr. Wieand in Tripoli (to visit his daughters in Beirut) we headed for the Cedars and Baalbek.

November 7: After a brief tour of Baalbek we headed toward home, arriving at 6:22 P.M. after a trip blessed by beautiful weather, one flat, one blowout, and 4647 kilometers of instructive travel.

Beyond these highlights, we dare not linger on impressions, but the rapid strides now being made in Syrian and Turkish archaeology must be emphasized. Turkey is now host to twelve foreign excavations, Syria to nine, not to mention extensive work by both departments of antiquities. Our superficial glance at Syrian antiquities noted extensive clearing and repair at Bosra, a new museum at Palmyra, a new museum in prospect for Aleppo (and even a temporary museum display of quality), and paved roads to Palmyra and Ras Shamra where extensive work continues. In Turkey whole civilizations are being put into perspective, early pottery Neolithic, Lydian, Phrygian, and Urartian.

This letter cannot close without reference to the final results of the fall excavation at Araq el-Emir, the work to which most of us are returning for shorter or longer periods during our winter hibernation. In general, the objectives for the fall campaign were achieved. A new set of objectives based on the results of this campaign is substantial enough to justify one more campaign at Araq el-Emir.

From the Qasr we will be able to publish three major sections, A N-S section of the "main hall," an E-W section from the center of the main hall to several meters past the west retaining wall of the Qasr, and a section extending south from the southeast corner of the Qasr. These sections indicate 1) a rather substantial EB settlement built, in part at least, on an outcrop of bedrock, 2) an imported fill laid in horizontal layers to provide a spacious platform for the Qasr, 3) the laying of megalithic foundations for the extant walls of the original Qasr and for crosswalls or supports within the "main hall," 4) additional layers of fill laid horizontally against these foundations, 5) erection of the megalithic Qasr walls, 6) two intruding occupation layers utilizing exterior Qasr walls and reconstructing interior walls, 7) two-meter horizontal fill inside and megalithic destruction debris (earthquake) outside Qasr, 8) thick layer of burned occupation debris inside Qasr, and 9) rubble and stone to surface debris. From sherds, coins, and glass this stratigraphy may be analyzed: Stratum I

(7-9), fifth century A.D.; Stratum II (6), fourth century to A.D.365; Stratum III (2-5), second century B.C.; Stratum IV (1), second half of third millenium B.C.

Excavation at the Square Building was carried to a satisfactory conclusion. It is now clear that there was an EB occupation there of the same horizon as that at the Qasr. There is evidence that the Hellenistic building was oriented in a slightly different direction than the extant square building and that it was not a simple square. Yet, more pottery of an early second century B.C. horizon was unearthed than in the entire Qasr operation, providing at least slender evidence for the date of the Hellenistic building with its triglyph decoration, and by architectural affinity for the Qasr itself. A large number of well preserved, dressed stones from the Hellenistic building should make reconstruction possible when services of a competent architect can be obtained. Nearly every basket of earth removed from the extant Byzantine Square Building revealed its extremely poor character, but little of its function; an oven and fragments of grinding stones perhaps indicate domestic use. Especially important was the discovery of a water channel running south from the Square Building at the edge of a terrace. Near the southwest corner of the building it turned directly west. It seems undoubtedly part of the Hellenistic water system though stratigraphic evidence for this is not likely to appear.

The most exciting discovery in our final weeks of work in the village was a meter-and-a-half Iron I wall of small undressed stones that seems to be part of an Israelite fortress. Only a small part of the plan has been uncovered, but a number of rooms with plastered walls are associated with it together with Iron I pottery and bones of sheep and goats. Also important was a large ceramic group from Stratum II destruction debris providing helpful ceramic evidence for the transition between Early and Late Roman pottery and indicating that there must have been very little gap between the destruction of Stratum II (last quarter of the second century A.D.) and Stratum I occupation. Finally, most intriguing was the discovery of a phase or phases of the Stratum III occupation that precede the Stratum IIb floor. Since laying of the floor belongs to the end of the second century B.C., these phases (substantially disturbed) are probably to be associated with the third and early second century B.C. material that sporadically appeared during the excavation. If more substantial evidence of these phases can be found, perhaps the birta of the Zenon papyri and even the baris of Josephus (confused with the Qasr) might be unearthed at Araq.

The members of our staff have been mentioned in our last letter, the only addition being Mr. Joseph Kikuchi, student at the British School on fellowship from the World Council of Churches and Th.D. candidate at St. Andrews University, who has assisted in drawing sections. It is a pleasure to thank all the members of our staff, all our ASOR friends, and Iliff School of Theology in particular for their part in bringing the "easy part" of our fall campaign to a successful conclusion.

October 7 was the day of our opening tea which introduced the new staff to a part of the Jerusalem community. Omar supplied the traditionally fine table of cakes and sandwiches, which, he reports, were enjoyed by 184 guests. Beyond that there has been little time for social life and few short-term guests.

We wish to take this opportunity to extend holiday wishes to our friends at home whom we may not be able to greet personally while spending December in the States.

Paul W. Lapp, Director
Jerusalem School

RE STOCK SALE: Regret our supply of RIVERS IN THE DESERT is exhausted.